



## PRESS RELEASE

04/11/2007 GAAS:271:07 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Senator Feinstein Endorses Governor Schwarzenegger's Water Infrastructure Plan**

#### *Governor Joins Senator Feinstein to Outline California's Environmental, Water Infrastructure Priorities*

Senator Dianne Feinstein today endorsed Governor Schwarzenegger's \$6 billion water infrastructure plan at a meeting today in Washington D.C. The two met to discuss California's major environmental and water infrastructure issues and her introduction of a national Low Carbon Fuel Standard consistent with the Governor's call to implement this groundbreaking policy at the federal level.

I am very pleased to receive Senator Feinstein's support for this critically-needed water infrastructure plan to address California's growing water needs that include storage, conveyance and conservation, said Governor Schwarzenegger. Today's announcement proves that California's water needs are not a partisan issue.

The Governor outlined his \$6 billion plan, Senate Bill 59 authored by Senator Dave Cogdill, to build more surface and groundwater storage, protect the Delta and promote conservation measures statewide. The proposal includes \$4.5 billion for increased water storage, \$1 billion for Delta sustainability, and \$450 million for conservation and restoration projects.

The Governor also applauded Senator Feinstein's introduction of the Clean Fuels and Vehicles Act last month that would establish a comprehensive national program to increase the availability of low carbon fuels and to require a reduction in emissions from vehicles, based on California's own vehicle tailpipe emissions law. If passed, this bill will reduce carbon dioxide emissions from the transportation sector by 22% below projected levels by 2030 (or 662 million metric tons of carbon dioxide), equivalent to taking over 108 million cars off the road for a year.

I applaud Senator Feinstein for proposing this policy at the national level. A healthy environment, a growing economy and strong national security are all reasons why we need a Low Carbon Fuel Standard for America, said the Governor.

In California, the Low Carbon Fuel Standard will more than triple the size of our renewable fuels market and put more than 7 million alternative fuel or hybrid vehicles on our roads by 2020 without any new government spending. It's also great for our national security because we will be less dependent on foreign oil and less vulnerable to price shocks and instability beyond our borders.

California's Low Carbon Fuel Standard was introduced by Governor Schwarzenegger earlier this year to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and lower California's reliance on foreign oil. By 2020 the standard will reduce the carbon intensity of California's passenger vehicle fuels by at least 10 percent. In February, the Governor called for a national Low Carbon Fuel Standard.

I would also like to thank Senator Feinstein for her leadership on levee repair funding and for pushing \$94.1 million through the Senate Appropriations Committee to help fix California's eroding levees. Once approved by Congress and the President, this money will be used by the Army Corps of Engineers to repair 213 sites on the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers that were damaged by storms in 2006, said Governor Schwarzenegger.

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta supplies water to 25 million people in California and is the lifeblood of California's \$32 billion agriculture industry, irrigating millions of acres of highly productive farmland. However, the Delta is vulnerable to salt water contamination from rising sea levels and natural disasters. Many of the 1,100 miles of deteriorating levees throughout the Delta are at risk for failure due to earthquakes and major flood events.

Previously, the federal government shared repair costs with the state. But the current federal budget has significantly cut Corps funding, forcing California to contribute an additional \$175 million for levee repairs. The State has completed repairs for 33 critical erosion sites and is working to complete, by September 2007, another 71 critical sites that resulted from the 2006 flood damage.